

The Confederate.

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EDITORS.

All letters on business of the Office, to be directed to A. M. GORMAN & CO.

FRIDAY, April 8, 1864.

Office of THE CONFEDERATE, on Fayetteville street, second door South of Pomroy's Bookstore. Sign of the CONFEDERATE FLAG.

This being the day set apart by Congress and the President, as a day of National Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer, all business will be suspended in this office during the day. Consequently there will be no issue of the Daily Confederate to-morrow, or Tuesday of to-day.

No Excuse for Starving.

This is the title of a very sensible article which we have copied from the *Western Democrat*. The Editor promises to investigate further the amount of produce raised in his district, and to pursue the inquiry—what has become of it? Happily, the title law, which the *Progress* of this city in its folly abuses, furnishes the means of ascertaining the truth on the all-important question, as to how the people are to be fed?

We propose to contribute as far as we can, to the solution of the question:

The third titling district embraces the counties of Carteret, Craven, Onslow, Duplin, Sampson, Wayne, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir and Greene. According to the census of 1850, the population of these counties numbered in the aggregate one hundred thousand. Allowing for the addition by reason of the increase of population within the last decade, and subtracting the losses by war, by the running off of slaves, and by the occupation of the enemy, and of those who have gone to the army, and we will still estimate the figures at seventy five thousand.

We have lately conversed with a friend who has access to the statistics furnished to the Department from that district; and we learn that there has been received in tithes of food and forage within that district, to the value of five millions of dollars, of which three millions may be estimated as for articles of food, valued at fair prices in times of peace. We further learn that the crop of potatoes alone pays all the expenses of gathering the tithes, and leaves the remainder net profit for the benefit of the army. This table shows then, that within the area of ten counties, and for a population of not more than eighty thousand or seventy-five thousand, there are thirty millions of dollars worth of food, or four hundred dollars worth of food to each mouth—men, women, and children—to which is to be added the original allowance of fifty bushels of sweet and fifty of Irish potatoes, one hundred bushels of corn or fifty of wheat, twenty of peas, &c., to be reserved by each farmer; and to this is again to be added the numerous articles of household supply, of poultry, game, fish, eggs, butter, lard, vegetables, &c., not noticed at all.

Why, with this state of things, should there be any scarcity of food to any one in the third district, much less any danger of starvation? These figures cannot be over the mark, and they are under it, to the extent that any unfair practice withholds the tenth of any article due to the government.

We will be glad if the Quartermasters will inform us, for the public benefit, of the receipts in their various districts, of different articles, that we may work out exactly how much of food there is in the land; and if necessary, the names of those who have it; for the title law will tell us this. If it does turn out that there is no real scarcity, then no excuse will remain for the dishonest extortion which reduces the poor to the necessity of begging.

Then it will be incumbent on those having authority to impress, to protect the community against extortionate prices. To-day we saw sweet potatoes at forty dollars a bushel! Such demands ought not to be tolerated.

We shall not enter at present on the Title Law. The more that is felt of it in the army, the more beneficial it appears. This country would be in a most lamentable and unhappy condition, if the suggestions of the *Progress* were received and acted on; for instead of studying and ascertaining the operation of this law, the *Progress* fires away its blunder at the whole thing. Happily, the cartridges are blank.

General Orders.

We are in receipt of a beautiful copy of a work entitled "General Orders from the Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Confederate States Army, from January 1862, to December 1863." It is a large book of 276 pages, and must be invaluable to all officers connected with the army. *Brauns & Cogswell*, Columbia, S. C. Price not stated.

Bobbing Around.

When Mr. Leach, into Lt. Col. of Kirkland's regiment, dodged the eyes and noses right on to five hundred times in one session, as Mr. Holden says he did, what a head work he must have had of it. It must have been "bobbing around" pretty well all the time. Only to look at him—nigh on five hundred dodges!—Raleigh Standard.

No bullet will ever hit such a head.

"THE MERCURY."—We have received the prospectus of a new weekly Paper to be published in this city, by W. B. Smith, Esq., Editor and Proprietor. The prospectus says it will be published in quarto form of eight pages, and will be gotten up in the very best manner—to be handsomely illustrated, and devoted to a dignified standard of Polite Southern Literature. Terms—\$10 for six months. We wish the enterprising publisher and editor the most abundant success.

In our paper of March 23rd, we set forth in an article under the title—"What North Carolina will do—Quiet and Harmony"—our own views of that plan of accord and concurrence, which would enable the differing political elements of the State who might wish to unite on some common basis of loyalty, in the present Governor's election, and in the election of members of the Legislature.

A very dangerous faction had arisen in the party calling itself Conservative, under the lead of Mr. Holden, whose purposes were agitation, excitement, denunciation of the Government, and a Convention, with a view to enter upon some separate State actions that would sever North Carolina from the Confederacy, and disgrace and ruin the State and her people. Besides this unwise and criminal purpose, Mr. Holden, the leader, had another of his own, and that was the elevation of Mr. Holden, or at least the manufacture for him of the additional notoriety of being, besides a *self-made man*, a *self-made candidate*.

It is said that "in the very hour and instant of a man's birth, one exactly similar to himself in spirit and form, is born also; and that some hidden and mysterious sympathy exists between the substantial and this ideal *double*." Doubting very much the philosophy of this doctrine, we can readily understand the moral that underlies it. There are some men who manage through life to establish and maintain (to the entire exclusion of the outside world) the fondest and closest relations with some *shadow of themselves*, which they foster and cherish as the highest of earthly obligations. As a politician, Mr. Holden is evidently one of this class; and we verily believe there has never been a moment of his political life when that other Mr. Holden was absent from his view. It was in this spirit of *self-worship*, that the *self-made man* became the *self-made candidate*. Mr. Holden, and his faction raised no political issues with Gov. Vance; they "did not separate politically or personally"—all remained conservative—but Mr. Holden wanted to be Governor, and so "put up" himself.

In this condition of things, the "Confederates," or, as they are called, "destructives," have a choice to make. They have no candidate; they have no wish to run one; they would prefer, if Mr. Holden would have allowed it, to let Gov. Vance be re-elected, and abide *conservative* rule for two years longer—victorious and prospective as it was—in the hope that Gov. Vance would prove "honest and patriotic," as Mr. Holden said he was. But they were not allowed; and now having a choice to make, they prefer to vote for Gov. Vance, because he is loyal, true, and unburthened with the praises of the yankees, and the distrust of our own people.

This Confederate party to-day holds the fate of the State—so far as the elections are concerned—in its own hand; for Gov. Vance will not beat Mr. Holden more than thirty or thirty-five thousand. The thirty thousand loyal men who voted for Col. Johnston, two years ago, together with the many who voted for Col. Vance on personal grounds, and because he was a soldier, can elect Gov. Vance, or defeat him. Indeed, strengthened as it already is, and will be, by the success that will attend this spring campaign, the Confederate party might elect a candidate of its own. Scales, Hoke, Clingman, Ransom, Gordon, Cox, Grimes, Avery, Garrett, and many others of the army, or many a civilian who might be named, could readily muster the whole strength. But we have carefully endeavored to find out the wish and intention; and there seems to be but one desire, and that is to avoid political agitation, and to secure in the office of Governor and in the members of the Legislature, "true men, faithful men, fearless men—men who are for the independence of the Confederacy, at whatever cost." This seems to us to be the universal voice of loyalty from every quarter. There can then be no difficulty in harmonizing this common desire into a common action. This will be done by the avoidance of extraneous questions, and the confinement in meetings and assemblies of the public, actions to the re-nomination of Gov. Vance, and the selection of fit and proper candidates to represent this loyal sentiment of the State.

It will be a grave error—or even worse, a fault, if a multiplicity of candidates in any of the counties secures the election of Mr. Holden's associates. In no other way can any such be elected. Unless men prefer themselves to the cause, and thus get in the way, they will not be in the next Legislature a single man who will avow himself as one of Mr. Holden's. The efforts of this faction of agitators and their chief, the *self-made*, to fix Gov. Vance as a "destructive," is too stale—worn out. There is not an old shoe on the most bare-foot boy of the Rapidian, that has not more sole to it than this "flat and unprofitable trick." It was one of Mr. Holden's earliest inventions—this "fixing" of a political adversary; and it is now the last straw. Let him cling to it. It's only a straw. It would not bear the weight of a feather—much less a load of political sin.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—In answer to our Correspondent at Macon Depot, relative to the "Invalid Corps," we would state that we published an article a short time since, in which we stated that the Act passed by Congress does apply to those who were disabled and discharged previous to the passage of the act.

We appreciate the extracts from private letters written by soldiers to their friends at home, which are frequently sent to us for publication; but when they allude to private individuals disparagingly, we can see no good that will grow out of parading them before the public.

Open Voting.

The soldiers could not have hit upon a more manly expedient for ascertaining individual loyalty, and at the same time exhibiting their own soldierly independence, than the one they have determined on; to wit, to vote open-ticketed. Their significant "comes out of that fold up," will fetch many a secret sympathizer unto agitation, who won't stand the public exposure.

Let them vote this way on the 2nd Thursday of April, and Mr. Leach will have the satisfaction of knowing what soldiers think of the late Lt. Colonel of the 21st, Kirkland's regiment.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A SCRAP FROM HISTORY.—We find the following in the Albany *Argus*:

"Just after Pope's rout in front of Washington, the high officers of the government were seized with such a panic that they gave up all hope of saving the capital. In the wild despair of the moment, orders were actually given to blow up and destroy the Washington Arsenal, and the millions upon millions of dollars worth of war material, to prevent them from falling into the hands of the rebels."

The Rochester *Daily Union*, which publishes the above, claims to have such authority for the statement as to preclude all doubt of its correctness, and to warrant the presumption that it will not be disputed by the only parties who are competent to give testimony on the subject, to wit: the high officials of the government.

We have no doubt of its truth or that it could be established by evidence. If the committee of Congress had not proved to be combination for the suppression of truth, the testimony could readily be brought before them.

The Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the Confederate States, will hold their annual meeting in Montgomery, on the 4th of May. Bishop Andrew, Pierce, Paine and Early are expected to be present. Bishops Soule and Kavanaugh are within the enemy's line, and though thoroughly loyal to the South, will be unable to attend. They are engaged in caring for the church (what remains of it) in the border States. At the same time and place, the Missionary Board and the Publishing Committee will hold their annual meeting.

These meetings for consultation and business used to be held in Nashville. A delegate from each of the annual Conferences will meet, in joint session, with the Bishops and Bishops for advice and suggestion as to the interests of Southern Methodism. This Council is a temporary expedient in lieu of the General Conference—a quorum of which cannot now be got together on account of the state of the country on the border and in the trans-Mississippi region, which embraces a large portion of the membership.

EXCUSES FROM TAXATION.—People say that the new Confederate tax law is hard to understand, and we suppose it is, considering the number of explanations called for. Some persons are under the impression that an exemption of a certain amount, will be allowed for each head of family, minor child, soldier, &c., without regard to the amount of property they own. But they are mistaken, and if they will look at the law it will be seen that the exemption does "not apply to any person whose property, exclusive of household furniture, shall be assessed at a value exceeding one thousand dollars." In other words, the person who owns more than one thousand dollars worth of property (not counting the value of his furniture) is not entitled to any exemption at all.

BISHOP ATKINSON'S APPOINTMENTS.—SPRING VISITATION OF 1864.—Bishop Atkinson is compelled by sickness to recall his Apointments already issued, and to substitute the following, viz:

Wilmington, April 17th; Rockfish, April 20th; Fayetteville, April 21st; St. Marks, Deep River, April 23d; Pittsburgh, April 24th; Chapel Hill, April 26th; Graham, April 28th; Hillsboro', April 29th; Raleigh, May 1st; Goldsboro', May 3d; Kinston, May 4th; Wilson, May 6th; Tarboro', May 8th; Scotland Neck, May 10th; Halifax, May 12th; Weidom, May 13th; Gaston, May 15th; Henderson, May 17th.

DEATH OF MRS. BOONE, OF CHINA.—The *Church Journal* says: "No friend of foreign missions will read without deep grief the announcement that the accomplished and devoted wife of Bishop Boone, whose health has for a long time been gradually failing, departed this life at St. Louis, on her way home to this country, and was there buried, the service of the church being read over her remains by the English Consul."

FACTS FOR THE TIMES.—Many persons are under misapprehension or in uncertainty as to several points connected with the currency, taxes, claims upon the Government, &c., and the following answers to questions which have been addressed to us may prove generally acceptable.

All tax's due to the Government, whether they are the taxes of 1863, but not yet paid, or the taxes assessed under the law of 1864, may be paid in four per cent. bonds, or in the certificates on which the four per cent. bonds are to issue. Where a certificate is greater in amount than the tax proposed to be paid for it, the collector will issue a new certificate for the excess—the tax-payer making up all fractional parts of a hundred dollars in money.

Five dollar notes will be received in payment of taxes of all kinds, or may be funded at par on four per cent. bonds, until the first of July next; at which time they also will be taxed, one third.

Nothing can be done with notes for a hundred dollars but to fund them in four per cent. bonds at two-thirds of their face, and subject also to a tax of ten dollars per month on each, from the first of April.

Notes under five dollars are subject to no tax or limitation, but remain current as here-to-fore at their full amount.

Notes of ten dollars, twenty dollars and fifty dollars, may be paid in taxes or funded in four per cent., or exchanged for new notes at two-thirds of their value—until the first of January next, at which time all then outstanding will be worthless.

This idea has gained considerable circulation that claims against the Treasury, existing prior to the first of April, would be paid in the reduced currency; unless presented and collected before the 1st of April. *This is an error.* It is only true of such claims as had been adjusted and a warrant or draft issued for the payment. The settlement had then become a part of the public records, and the holder of such draft was of the nature of a deposit in the Treasury, and if he failed to draw his money, it became liable to the tax on the 1st of April. But claims unsettled, or for which payment had not been tendered, will follow the usual rule of being paid in currency par at the time of payment.

The New York *Herald* says that there are twelve steamers running between Nassau and Wilmington.

At two o'clock, on the 1st, gold in New York was 1662. The closing quotation in

[From the N. Y. Herald.]

The Spring Campaign.

ITS IMPORTANCE AND PROSPECTS—GENERAL GRANT ON THE ROAD TO RICHMOND—WHAT IS BEFORE US.

We are on the verge of a decisive campaign—a campaign which will bring the rebellion to an end or cover with disgrace and confusion the Government and the loyal States. As the opposing armies now stand, all the advantages of numbers, facilities, position and strength appear to be so overwhelming on the side of the Union, that hardly the shadow of doubt disturbs the public anticipations of complete success. From all the indications, however, on the other side, it appears that the rebels in this campaign will fight with the energy of despair. It is their last chance. All their forces now estimated at three hundred thousand men in the field—and all their resources are staked upon the coming struggle. They feel and confess that their situation is desperate; but on every side they are preparing for a terrible resistance.

In this view it is a matter of universal congratulation that, under the pressure of public opinion, Congress has spoken to the President, and that the President, in compliance with the voice of Congress, has placed all the armies of the Union under the direction of General Grant. The country is satisfied that this proceeding is eminently wise and well timed, and that it cannot possibly fail to secure the most glorious results. The steps already taken by General Grant in the work of re-organizing our armies for active fighting, are very encouraging. He puts his most thoroughly tried and approved officers in the most important positions, beginning with the sagacious and irrepressible Sherman, as his successor in command of the great department which stretches from East Tennessee to the Mississippi in one direction, and to the Gulf in the other. But the announcement which we accept with the highest satisfaction is that which locates the headquarters of General Grant with the army of the Potowmack. With that heroic army we have had, from the beginning, the most inviting opportunities offered for a decisive blow to the Davis Confederacy; but the mismanagement of that army, thus far, has been our only serious drawback. Now we may confidently look for better things than costly defeats in blood and treasure, foolish raids, unpredictable marches and counter-marches, and undisciplined victories.

We dare say that General Grant has discovered that Richmond is the head of the rebellion, and that a *thilling blow upon the head is the readiest way to finish it*. We suspect that he has found out that the army of the Potowmack is able and ready for the work before it, and that the work will soon be entered upon and thoroughly accomplished. We cannot imagine that he comes to sit down at the Rapid Ann and quietly wait for the roads to dry, until all the odds and ends of the rebel armies, from Richmond to South Carolina, are concentrated against him. In any event, however, we are called upon to prepare for a campaign, East and West, in which all human probability will be marked by the most obstinately contested and the most sanguinary battles of the war.

In this view, and considering the momentous consequences involved in the struggle before us, it becomes the duty of the administration, of Congress, of the State authorities of the loyal States, and of their people, without distinction of party, to devote themselves now to the paramount business of the war, and to the exclusion of party politics and Presidential squabbling, at least till the 7th of June.

We must succeed in this impending military campaign, or this war for the Union may prove a disgraceful and ruinous failure. We cannot safely go beyond another year, with a yearly expenditure of eight or nine hundred millions of money, and an annual drain from the industrial interests of the country of half a million or more of its most vigorous men. *We must bring the rebellion to the dust this coming summer, or the discontent of the people of the loyal States may ripen into scenes of violence, discord and anarchy, and to the general destruction of the Confederacy.*

We would appeal, then, to the party journals and the party politicians of the loyal States, to suspend the agitation of the Presidential question until we shall have gained a solid foundation to stand upon. In the interval to June we hope to be able to see our way clearly through the roared columns of Jeff. Davis; but in the meantime nothing is certain, except that the issue of the Presidential contest, if not of the war, remains to be determined by the issue of the approaching campaign against the rebellion.

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For the Confederate.

MESSES. EDITORS:—I yesterday had the pleasure of hearing the discussion between Messrs. Foster, Leach and Ramsey—the three candidates for Congressional honors in this, the 7th dist. All of them acquitted themselves well, and everything passed off quietly. I presume, by the manner in which they were greeted, that their various friends were well satisfied with their respective efforts. They all professed to be very strong peace men, and promised to do all they could to bring about an honorable peace at as early a day as practicable. In fact, I could see but little difference between them, except that Messrs. Ramsey and Foster endorsed the administration of Gov. Vance, and expressed themselves very strongly in favor of his re-election, and Mr. Leach did not.

The probabilities are, as far as I can learn, that as matters now stand, with three candidates in the field, Mr. Leach will be elected by a large majority. The friends of Mr. Leach consider him a much stronger man than Captain Ramsey, and if the contest was narrowed down to the two candidates, Messrs. Foster and Leach, they believe that Foster would be elected; which is very probable, as Mr. Foster is quite a popular man, and very generally known in the district. Hopes are entertained that the friends of Captain Ramsey may use their influence in trying to get him to withdraw, and thereby give Mr. Foster a fair chance in the race with his competitor, Mr. Leach.

Yours, &c., JUSTICE.

Thomasville, April 6, 1864.

For the Confederate.

SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

There are three candidates, Foster, Ramsey and Leach. The two first for the Confederate, and the latter for himself. If Foster and Ramsey consent between themselves that we should vote for the strongest man, I am sure Foster is the man. The people had settled on Foster in this part of the district, before they heard Ramsey was a candidate. Leach is opposed to Vance and Holden, but for himself. Indeed he may be said to be a Leach man.